

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF VICTIM SERVICES MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Anne Arundel County Police Department Headquarters

ATTENDEES

BOARD MEMBERS: Ellen Alexander, Anne Bean, Barbara Bond, The Honorable Dario Broccolino, Kim Herndon on behalf of Tammy Brown, Jessica Dickerson, Linda Fleischer, Rea Goldfinger, Sheriff Gary Hofmann, Scott Keller, Molly Knipe, Patricia Marshall, The Honorable Laura Martin, Eileen Meier, Margery Patten, Scott Beard on behalf of Cindy Peace, Debra Tall and Virginia Wolf.

STAFF: Anne Litecky.

GUESTS: Michael Cohen, Richard Hofmann, Lisae Jordan, Pauline Mandel, Carol Mackowiak and Laurie Rajala.

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER: Ellen Alexander, Chair, began the meeting at approximately 10:15 a.m.

MINUTES:

- **Motion:** November , 2013 State Board meeting minutes
- **Vote:** seconded with no corrections.

Guest Presenter, Jennifer Shipperly was introduced. Lisa is an attorney with the Federal Trade Commission, Division of Privacy and Identity Protection. Tax identity theft is the misuse of social security numbers for the purpose of obtaining employment and/or to file for tax refunds. According to the FCC, in 2012, tax identity theft complaints rose to 43% from 15% in 2010. Maryland is #9 on the list of top ten states with identity thefts. Tax identity theft can happen through organized crime of dishonest tax preparers. Perpetrators are claiming children that are not their dependents, using social security number of deceased individuals, and paying medical staff to steal social security numbers from databases. Protect your social security by all means. Shred extra copies of your past tax returns. Do not reply to any emails from the IRS, they contact only by mail or telephone. In the event of tax identity theft, contact the IRS or your employer. Identity Theft Awareness Week is January 13-17th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Members are reminded to actively participate on at least one State Board committee.

STANDING COMMITTEES

❖ Grant Committee

- Thirty (30) applications for the FY2015 Maryland Victims of Crime (MVOC) and Legal Services for Crime Victims (LSCV) funds have been received.
- There are five (5) review groups.
- Grant review process: includes one grant committee member and two outside reviewers.

- Groups are scheduled to meet via teleconference to tally up final scores during the week of January 22nd.
- Questions may be directed to Anne Litecky at alitecky@goccp.state.md.us

❖ **Legislative Committee**

- The committee is reviewing pre-filed Bills
- Victim related Bills are primarily for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault/ Human Trafficking.
- Teleconferences are scheduled each Thursday at @ 2:30pm
- The committee would like to know what is the Board's priority with seeking and lobbying for Bills
- Is HB31-Victim Statements during sentencing an appropriate Bill for the Board.
- It was suggested the Board decide which Bills it will support and write letters to legislators in support or opposition to the Bill.
- January 26th is the Women's Legislative Breakfast
- February 4th is the MD Legislative Women's Meeting. They help to push Bills that may not get as much attention.
- Gail Seaton is introducing a bill for bereavement leave through the CICB for homicide survivors.
- There is a bill being introduced to protect undocumented workers who are afraid to report victimization due to fear of being deported.
- There is a bill to increase CICB, MVOC and relocation funds. It has not passed in the past few years. It was suggested to raise MVOC funding cap opposed to increasing CICB funds. A proposal should be made in support of increasing funds.
- All recommendations and oppositional submissions are welcome and will be considered

AD HOC COMMITTEES

❖ **Governor's Luncheon/Commemorative Day**

- Date: April 3, 2014
- Time: 11:30 to 2:30 pm
- Location: La Fontaine Bleue Catering in Glen Burnie
- Color: cornflower blue and black
- Staff from MCVRC will be assisting MVOC staff along with committee members in coordinating the luncheon this year,
- Request for nominations has not been made.
- There is no plan established as of yet for a panel or keynote speaker, committee is accepting ideas/suggestions.

❖ **Memorial Services**

- April 6, 2014
- Hosts: Baltimore City, Calvert, Montgomery and Worcester counties
- MVOC Funding assistance: \$1500 to the Northern and Southern hosts, \$1000 to the Eastern and Western hosts
- Hosts are working to secure locations

❖ **Compliance Committee**

- Richard Hoffman submitted a report to list individual complaints received.
- Some cases are easy to resolve, some are less likely.
- Victim not being identified is the majority of the complaints received.
- Compliance committee is meeting monthly. (Russell Butler, Richard Hoffman and Anne Litecky)
- Victim data from sentencing workshops is extremely valuable in providing comparison data with other systems to determine effectiveness of the notification process.

❖ **VINE**

- Apris and Vine are working to get into the new electronic court system.
- CVNF is a manual form that is transferrable-which allows for many gaps. Integrating this into an electronic system will be more efficient
- Montgomery and Worcester counties detention centers are off line. Montgomery Co. is getting a change to their entire system.
- Please remind victims to check websites for updates, they may not receive notifications.
- Apris has also created a mobile app for victims to check the status of offenders.
- We need to come together as a state to correct issues with scripting.
- VINE has sent notifications to victims informing them of offenders plea, as if they are coming from county witness and victim services (Calvert Co. Victim/Witness Assistance Unit) with the wrong telephone number.
- A workgroup was proposed to develop better scripting for VINE notifications.
- Providers should make victims aware of notification issues with VINE.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

❖ **Fraud**

- It was discovered that a DOC employee is posing as a State Board Representative to get financial information from victims that have placed claims with CICB.
- They are using a private number and answering MD State Board.
- This is extending across jurisdictions (Baltimore City, Baltimore and Montgomery Counties.)
- The phone was being investigated, it led to an address that is now being investigated.
- Law Enforcement advised Anne and Ellen there is nothing they can do until someone has actually been victimized by this.
- Tammy Brown has been notified.
- Scott has sent letters to all CICB claimants informing them of the situation.
- It was suggested we have GOCCP get involved to further the investigation and speak with the investigator for advice on notifying potential victims.

❖ **UB MOVE**

- The move was complete on December 18th, however due to the University being closed for winter break, we are still working on getting computers and telephones established.
- The MOU was developed for a collaboration of MVOC, MCVRC and UB Criminal Justice Department. Employees from all three agencies will be working together for victim assistance and upcoming needs assessments.
- This collaboration will work positively for the Board.

Ellen Meir, new board member was introduced. Ellen is a sexual assault examiner and attorney. She has done a lot of work in Baltimore City working with Domestic Violence. She was a federal lobbyist for six years doing varied legislation. She has worked overseas in Bosnia and Iraq with domestic violence victims. She is a homicide survivor and works with cold case homicide files.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Guests and Board members were thanked for their participation. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:25 p.m.

**The next Board meeting will be held on
Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at 10am
At the Anne Arundel County Police Department Headquarters**